

I guess, in a nutshell, he said, "It could have been one of us," and I guess that really characterizes the mood around here these days: It could have been anybody. But it was two heroes who fell for their country, who fell protecting others without hesitation, without question.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not only offer my prayers from my family and the people of Brooklyn and Staten Island to those of the families of Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson, if I did not mention that, right now, there is a young police officer back home in Staten Island who was shot in the head 2 days ago by a 17-year-old boy, this boy who had killed somebody at the age of 15. So I say that as an example in reflection of that dedication of the Capitol Hill Police and police officers around this country who stand in defense of freedom every single day to protect the innocent, to protect us. And while we pray for the families of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut, may we also pray for Mr. Carter and hope that he recovers and that in Staten Island we have him back protecting us as well.

PROFOUND CONDOLENCES FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a terrible and devastating incident occurred here in the Capitol of our Nation. Inside this glistening white marble building one person changed the lives of two families forever and held a Nation captive as we prayed for the lives of two dedicated police officers who have protected us without as much as a second thought.

In our daily rush we may sometimes forget that the officers we see throughout the buildings are there ready to make the personal sacrifices their duty requires. Staff members sometimes feel frustrated if they are stopped by an officer as they give tours, and interns are sometimes flustered if asked for identification. It is so easy to forget that these officers are trying to protect us despite ourselves.

Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The recent events bring their duty into clearer focus and force us to realize that, despite our occasional complacency, these officers must be prepared every day to face danger. Last Friday, in little more than a heartbeat, a delusional person was able to cowardly snuff out the life of a dedicated and professional officer. Jacob Chestnut was, however, much more than just a police officer. He was a good husband and father, and he was a caring member of his community and church.

Unfortunately, he was not alone. Officer John Gibson had three children and made time in his life for many others. He was the kind of person who was

willing to dress up as Santa Claus to thrill children at Christmas. As a deputy whip to majority whip TOM DELAY, I came to know John Gibson as a man assigned to protect the majority whip. Many days I would go in the side entrance to the office, and Detective Gibson would be there with his reassuring presence and smile. We all came to know and care for Officer John Gibson.

Despite the tragic turn of events on Friday it is my personal belief that the police security worked. The intruder was stopped before he was able to roam freely throughout the U.S. Capitol Building killing innocent civilians. I am proud of Officers Gibson and Chestnut. I am also proud of all the other officers on duty that day for their quick and professional response in bringing down the alleged killer, helping their fallen comrades and managing the hundreds of people who were either working or touring in the Capitol.

I would also like to express my own profound condolences as well as those of the people of the 4th District of Florida to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Officer John Gibson. May God bless them.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

(Mr. HOUGHTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, so many people have talked so eloquently about these two brave men that I am not going to try to do that. However, in less than an hour and a half we will be having this service in the Rotunda which the President, the Vice President, the members of the Cabinet and Senate and the House are going to be paying their final respects to these two courageous, courageous men. But I guess I ask myself how can we help? What goes on afterwards?

We have had 2 days of mourning. There will be other mournings that go on. But sooner or later those families are going to be on their own, and they are going to need our help, and I hope we can be of help to them whether it is through any contributions we can make to funds, whether it is some help to their children, whether it is in a variety of different ways. I think those are the times when we will be needed.

Also, I would like to feel that we can do what is needed to be done for the Capitol Police in terms of buttressing them and making sure that they have the proper protective equipment.

Another thing I think is that there are a great many people out there who were not in Washington but have the same types of functions, and these people need our protection and our help. I know in my communities and the district in which I live similar people are exposed daily to the type of dangers that these two brave officers were.

And also I think that there are a variety of people who are not in self service but are in service to this country,

whether it is in the military or judiciary or a whole variety of things that really we should be aware of and sensitive to the conditions under which they work.

OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON MADE A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan in his inaugural address talked about a man named Martin Treptoe. Martin Treptoe, like J.J. Chestnut, John Gibson, had not ever been heard of by America before that time, but Martin Treptoe was a baker. During World War I, when it was raging, he volunteered to go to the front. He became a message carrier. He got to the front, and three other message carriers had been killed, but yet Martin Treptoe volunteered again. And like the other three, they found Martin Treptoe dead about halfway to the front, and they found his message pouch, and I would like to quote from that pouch. It says:

"This is a very difficult war. I don't think I will survive. But I must treat every action as if that action determined the outcome of this conflict."

Both J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson treated every one of their actions as if the outcome made a difference for the Members of Congress and the safety of the public. We honor those two individuals today. May God bless.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, and I hope something that has been said over these last 2 days will continue to help and comfort those who mourn.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human morality." Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson truly upheld this lofty standard.

And I also thank all other Capitol Hill Police Officers and all law enforcement officers throughout this Nation who protect us.

As responsible defenders of our country, these two slain officers protected our citizens from mortal danger, and it cost them their very lives. But they protected more than the people around them. Officers Chestnut and Gibson protected the very core of our American society and our belief in the preservation of life and democracy.

Today I would like to acknowledge the courage and dedication that Officers John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut exemplified this past Friday. Today I seek to honor the memories of these brave men who served their country with the utmost dignity.

On a personal note I want to offer a very personal thanks, for I was here in these very Chambers when the shootout started, and I know that their bravery served and saved so many others.

As I say goodbye to our fallen officers, I am reminded of the Psalm of David where it is written:

Trust in the Lord, and do good, so you will dwell in the land and enjoy security. Take the light in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord. Trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your vindication as the light and your right as the noon day.

Last Friday, Officers Chestnut and Gibson did do good, and I am certain that they will bask in the Lord's glory when they reach the heavens.

This event has brought the pall of sorrow across the expanse of our great Nation. We all grieve today for two heroes whose lives were prematurely ended. However, we are gratified that democracy and freedom still lives in these halls and in our Nation. We can find comfort knowing that Officers Chestnut and Gibson will glorify the heavens as their spirits ascend ever upward.

As written in Matthew 5:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

And blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

In addition to these two brave officers, we must also thank the entire Capitol Police Force whose value was clearly evident during these trying hours this past Friday. The fast response of all of the Capitol's Officers diminished the severity of this heinous event. Not only did the Officers respond to the threat, but they also maintained a sense of calm that averted panic and comforted Congress Members, staff members and the members of the public touring the capital grounds.

I personally thank the police force for their mere presence comforts me when I step on these grounds, and I am comforted knowing that valiant officers like John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut watch over all of us.

It is so very important to remember Officer Chestnut. This honorable man was dutifully providing directions for a man and his son when he was gunned down from behind by a sick and confused perpetrator. It is cruel irony that

Officer Chestnut was summarily executed as he performed an act of kindness. As we remember him we must not only remember his gallantry. It is likely that we would be grieving the loss of a far greater number of lives if he had not acted.

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Officer Gibson's quick action protected, not only the lives of the majority whip and his staff, but it also protected the multitude of innocents who were touring the Capitol and its grounds. Who knows what carnage would have unfolded had Officer Gibson not brought an end to this violence.

I offer my utmost sympathy to the families. Officer Chestnut was the consummate family man. He shared precious moments with his wife and his children. He generously spent time with his father-in-law. He moved forward and helped all of those who wanted to help him. He helped and stood by his wife's side, and he savored the moments with his children and his grandchildren.

Detective Gibson was also a loving man, a good husband, and a father of three. Detective Gibson spent much time with his family. He took his children to their athletic events, played with the family dog, and gladly offered assistance to his neighbors.

The fact that Detective Gibson had planned to vacation with his family the moment he left work last Friday is a testament to his sense of family togetherness. That vacation on this Earth will never take place, but I know there are better days ahead.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my family, the constituents of the 18th congressional district in Texas and my staff, I offer to those who mourn my greatest sympathy and love. And on behalf of all of us, I offer these words of comfort in Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall line up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

God bless the families of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Officer Gibson. God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Officer J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. I hope something that has been said over these days will help those who mourn.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked,

A man does what he must—in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—and that is the basis of all human morality.

Officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson truly upheld this lofty standard. I also thank all other Capitol Hill police and all other law enforcement officers who protect us. As responsible defenders of our country, these two slain officers protected our citizens from mortal danger, and it cost them their very lives. But they protected more than the people around them. Officers Chestnut and Gibson protected the very core of our American society, our belief in the preservation of life and democracy.

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son and J.J. Chestnut exemplified this past Friday. Today I seek to honor the memories of these brave men who served their country with the utmost dignity. On a personal note, I want to personally thank them because I was here in this chamber during the shootout and know that their bravery saved so many others.

As I say goodbye to our fallen officers, I am reminded of the Psalm of David where it is written:

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.

Last Friday, Officers Chestnut and Gibson did "do good," and I am certain that they will bask in the Lord's glory when they reach the heavens.

This event has brought the pall of sorrow across the expanse of our great Nation. We all grieve today for two heroes whose lives were prematurely ended. However we are gratified that democracy and freedom still live in these halls and in our Nation.

We can find comfort knowing that Officers Chestnut and Gibson will glorify the heavens as their spirits ascend over upward. As written in Matthew 5:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (5:9)

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. (5:8)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (5:10)

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (5:11)

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you. (5:12)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (5:4)

In addition to these two brave officers, we must also thank the entire Capitol police force whose value was clearly evident during those trying hours this past Friday. The fast response of all of the Capitol's officers diminished the severity of this heinous event. Not only did the officers respond to the threat, but they also maintained a sense of calm that averted panic and comforted Congress members, staff members, and the members of the public touring the Capitol grounds.

I personally thank the police force because their mere presence comforts me whenever I step inside the Capitol. I am comforted knowing that valiant officers like John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut watch over me.

This incident represented a rare event in our American history. Violent events in the Capitol, however, have occurred before. In February 1890, Charles E. Kincaid, Louisville Times correspondent, shot former representative William P. Taulbee on stairs leading from the House. Mr. Taulbee later died from his injuries. In December 1932, Marlin R.M. Kemmerer entered the House gallery and demanded time to address the House while brandishing a revolver. Fortunately, Representative Melvin J. Haas persuaded the gunman to drop the weapon. In March 1954, five Congressmen were shot on the floor of the House by three Puerto Rican

nationalists who were in the visitors' gallery. Until last Friday, the latest act of violence in the Capitol was the bombing of the second floor of the Capitol. Fortunately, no one was injured.

What makes this recent event more serious than past events is the sense of security and safety that was shattered by the gunman's weapon. Given the heightened security at the Capitol, I have to think that few of us expected to face the violent assault on the Capitol, much less the loss of two Capitol officers.

We must forever remember Officer Chestnut. This honorable man was dutifully providing directions for a man and his son when he was gunned down from behind by a sick and confused perpetrator. It is cruel irony that Officer Chestnut was summarily executed as he performed an act of kindness.

We forever remember Officer Gibson. Were it not for his gallantry, it is likely that we would be grieving the loss of a far greater number of lives. Officer Gibson's quick action protected not only the lives of the Majority Whip and his staff, but it also protected the multitude of innocents who were touring the Capitol and its grounds. Who knows what carnage would have unfolded had Officer Gibson not brought an end to the violence?

Authorizing the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for the memorial services for these brave men is fitting because they truly are national heroes, and they deserve a hero's tribute. I am also honored that a plaque bearing the names of Officers Chestnut and Gibson will grace the walls of the Capitol, so we will forever remember their selfless acts of valor.

I offer my utmost sympathy to the families of our fallen heroes. Officer Chestnut was the consummate family man. He shared precious moments with his wife and his children, and he generously spent time with his father-in-law in the garden that the two maintained. Because of the terrible acts of one man, Officer Chestnut will not be able to enjoy his retirement by his wife's side, he will not be able to savor moments with his children and grandchildren, and he will not be able to till that garden he loved so dearly.

Detective Gibson was also a loving family man. A good husband and the father of three, Detective Gibson spent much time with his family. He took his children to their athletic events, played with the family dog, and gladly offered assistance to his neighbors. The fact that Detective Gibson has planned to vacation with his family the moment he left work last Friday is testament to his sense of family togetherness. Sadly, this vacation will never be taken, and Gibson's family will never again spend time with their beloved husband and father.

Mr. Speaker on behalf of myself, my family, the constituents of the 18th Congressional District in Texas and my staff, I offer my deepest sympathy and I leave you with the words of Isaiah 40:15, "Those that wait upon the Lord shall walk, run and not faint."

Given the loss felt by the families of our fallen officers, I feel that we must do what we can to provide assistance to these survivors. By paying for the funeral services, creating a survivor's gratuity to the widows of the two officers, and by urging the establishment of a Capitol Police Memorial Fund, we can acknowledge the courage of Officers Chestnut and Gibson in the best way possible, by helping their family members.

IN TRIBUTE

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if Detective John Gibson or Officer Jacob Chestnut ever met anyone from the 1st congressional district of Mississippi in the performances of their duties. But my constituents feel a kinship with these two slain heroes today.

They realize that these brave men gave their lives, not simply to defend hundreds of innocent people during last Friday's shootout but to protect and preserve 222 years of history and freedom symbolized by this majestic Capitol building.

The gunshots which rang out in these hallowed halls last week were heard around the Nation. E-mails and messages from my North Mississippi district reflect the same sorrow and shock other Members of Congress heard from the people they represent all across our great country this weekend.

This was not simply a shooting incident on a piece of fed property, it was an attack on the People's House, an attack on us all. This e-mail from constituents in Olive Branch, Mississippi is one example.

It reads, and I quote:

Congressman Wicker, please express the heartfelt condolences of the people of Mississippi to the families and friends of the two slain Capitol policemen. They served and died honorably and in the best traditions of all those who placed their lives on the line for the citizens of this country. We trust they will be given the finest remembrance available in accord with the wishes of their families.

The American people join us today in honoring Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. We lift them up as the role models and dedicated servants they were, professionals who took seriously their obligation to defend and protect the foundation of our democracy.

It is fitting that we honor these two men as heroes and that we make sure their sacrifice is never forgotten. Beyond the words we utter on the House floor and in memorial services, a more lasting tribute to them is to ensure that we carry on the orderly functions of government inside this building that they died to preserve.

It is important that we send a message to all those who would tear at the fabric of our democracy that we will not be deterred from keeping open this historic building which stands as the most visible symbol of freedom in the world.

I share the sentiment echoed in this chamber that we stand united in reassuring our citizens that our free and open government represented so powerfully by all that goes on in the U.S. Capitol will not be disrupted by the actions of one disturbed individual.

Never again will we take for granted the job our law enforcement officers do in and around the Capitol. They come

to work each day prepared to give their lives in service to our country.

Last week, for the first time in history, two of these brave officers made the ultimate sacrifice. They saved lives in the process. We share the grief their families feel because they were part of all of our families, and they will remain so.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the 1st congressional district of Mississippi join me in saluting the bravery and courage of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

IN TRIBUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to express my sympathy and that of Michigan's 1st congressional district to the families of our two fallen officers of the Capitol Police Department, Detective John Michael Gibson and Officer Joseph Jacob Chestnut.

They are our officers because those of us who were and those of us who are in law enforcement know that Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut are our fellow officers. When a law enforcement officer was injured or killed, each of us who have been there are injured in a personal way.

As an Escanaba City police officer and later as a Michigan State Police trooper, unfortunately, too often, I felt and I have witnessed the outrage, the mourning, the sadness like that that has been expressed here in the Nation's Capitol and all across this great country.

It happens all too often, Mr. Speaker. Every other day a law enforcement officer dies in the line of duty here in America, every other day. Today we salute Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. In response to their death, there has been calls for a visitor's center or to move the security perimeter farther away from the Capitol, farther to protect our brave law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I really wish it was that easy. I wish we could just pass a law that here in America we could say no more law enforcement officers would have to be killed or to be injured in the line of duty. But it just does not work that way Mr. Speaker.

If we ask Officer Chestnut or Detective Gibson, I am sure they would tell you that, in law enforcement officers, we rely on that personal contact with the public that we serve. We need that permanent contact to do our job. We need that contact.

You see, while Officer Chestnut probably really never had a chance, Detective Gibson knew what he had to do. He had to protect employees. He had to protect the visitors. He had to protect the Nation's Capitol.

He knew what the job demanded. They both understood their job. They